

96. An intercalate in accordance with claim 95, wherein the layered silicate material is contacted with said onium ion spacing/coupling agent in an intercalant composition comprising said layered silicate material, said onium ion spacing/coupling agent and a carrier for said onium ion spacing/coupling agent and wherein the concentration of the onium ion spacing/coupling agent in said intercalating composition is at least about 2% by weight, based on the dry weight of the layered silicate material.
97. A method of intercalating a phyllosilicate with both an onium ion and an MXD6 nylon polymer comprising slurring the phyllosilicate in water to form a clay/water slurry; adding the onium ion to the phyllosilicate/water slurry; separating the onium ion-treated clay from the water; drying the phyllosilicate; and then mixing the onium ion-treated phyllosilicate with MXD6 nylon to intercalate the MXD6 nylon between adjacent platelets of the phyllosilicate.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment and the new claims 46-97 submitted herewith are presented to satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.607(c). The new claims 46-97 correspond at least substantially to claims 1-52 of U.S. Patent No. 6,232,388 B1 to Lan *et al.*, issued May 15, 2001.

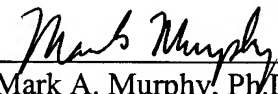
Credit Card Payment (Form PTO-2038) in the amount of \$1,776.00 is included to cover the \$996.00 fee under 37.C.F.R. §1.116(b) for 52 additional claims, and the \$840.00 fee for ten (10) additional independent claims under 37.C.F.R. §1.116(c). No other fees are believed due;

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 05015.0271U3
SERIAL NO. 10/092,128

however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.


Mark A. Murphy, Ph.D.
Registration No. 42,915

The Candler Building
127 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1811
(404)688-0770

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL055858915US

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any documents referenced herein as being enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EL055858915US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date below.


Michael Moody


Date 5/14/02